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ABSTRACT

This study examined the progress member states of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) are making toward leading the nation in enrollment and pass rates for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. SREB states lead the country in the percentage of public schools that offer the AP program, 74%, compared with 65% nationally. Nearly half of the schools nationwide that offer IB courses are in SREB states. In SREB states the number of students who take AP exams has more than doubled since 1992. More minority students are taking AP courses in SREB states than before, and the numbers of minority and majority students taking IB courses in SREB states has increased. As more students take AP courses, the passing rates typically decrease. This has been the case in SREB states as well, but more than one-third of white students, one-third of Hispanic students, and one-half of black students who passed AP courses nationwide lived in SREB states. The history of AP and IB programs in the SREB states is traced. (Contains 11 tables and 6 references.) (SLD)

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Progress in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate in SREB States

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COLLEGE READINESS SERIES

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Progress in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate in SREB States

SREB states have set a high target for themselves: leading the nation in educational progress. One goal in *Goals for Education: Challenge to Lead* focuses on the rigor of the high school curriculum: “**All recent high school graduates have solid academic preparation and are ready for postsecondary education and a career.**” One important way to assess progress toward this goal is to measure how many students enroll in and pass Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. The AP and IB programs set higher standards to prepare students for college-level courses.¹ Students are not the only ones who are better-prepared because of these programs. More than 60,000 teachers nationwide attend AP professional development each year. Because these teachers usually teach other courses as well as AP courses, the improved teaching skills that they acquire through this professional development benefit all of their students — not just those in AP classes.

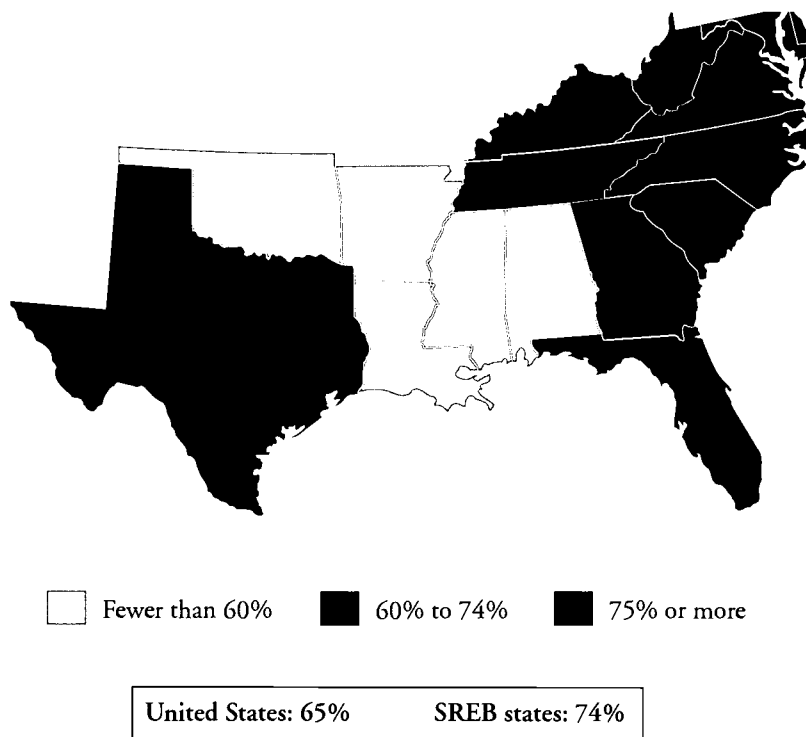
SREB’s goals call on states to exceed national averages on many educational measures. What progress are SREB states making toward leading the nation in enrollment and pass rates for AP and IB courses? Have some states already achieved this goal? Are the others on the right track?

Are schools offering the programs?

The Advanced Placement Program is increasingly popular in schools nationwide. **SREB states lead the nation in the percentage of public schools that offer the AP Program — 74 percent, compared with 65 percent nationally.** The percentages exceed the national average in 10 SREB states (Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia). Delaware offers AP in every high school; more than 90 percent of high schools offer AP courses in Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina. (See Table 1 and Figure 1.)

¹ For the history of these programs, see page 8.

Figure 1
Percent of Public Schools Offering the
Advanced Placement Program, 2002



Source: The College Board

The International Baccalaureate Program is another important means for students to prepare for college. Although the program is not as extensive and well-known as Advanced Placement, the numbers of public and private schools that offer it have almost doubled since 1997 both in SREB states and in the nation. More students participate in the program and take IB exit exams in Florida than in any other state. Only California offers the program in more schools. Nearly half (47 percent) of the schools nationwide that offer IB are in SREB states. (See Table 2.)

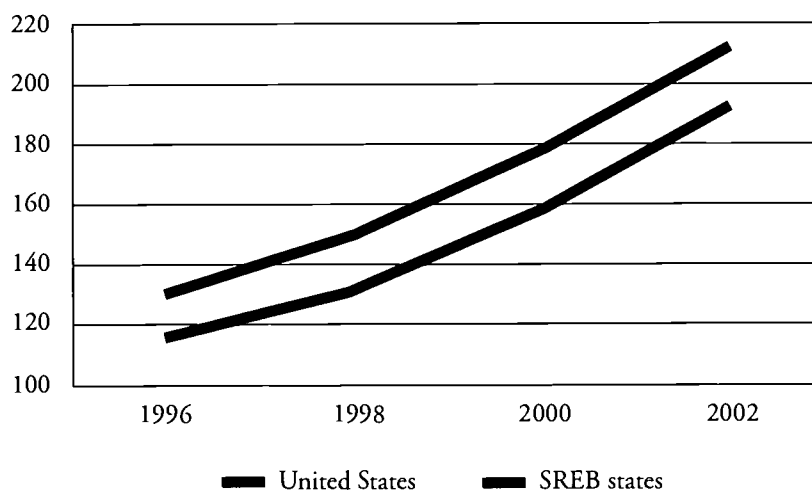
What students take the courses?

The number of students in public schools who take AP exams has increased steadily since 1992. In SREB states, the number more than doubled during that time — from 98,860 students in 1992 to 273,335 students in 2002. Students in SREB states account for more than 35 percent of all students in public schools nationwide who take at least one AP exam. In 1992, the figure was about 32 percent. (See Table 3.)

The numbers of AP exams per 1,000 juniors and seniors in public and private schools provides a means to compare the progress across states in promoting AP. The regional rate in 1996 was 116 exams per 1,000 juniors and seniors, compared with 130 nationally. While the regional rate increased by 2002, it continued to trail the national average: 193 exams per 1,000 juniors and seniors in the SREB states and 212 per 1,000 juniors and seniors in the nation. The rates were higher than the national average in eight SREB states (Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia). Virginia's 356 exams per 1,000 juniors and seniors was the highest state total in the nation. (See Table 4 and Figure 2.)

Figure 2

Advanced Placement Exams Per 1,000 11th- and 12th-graders,
Public and Private Schools

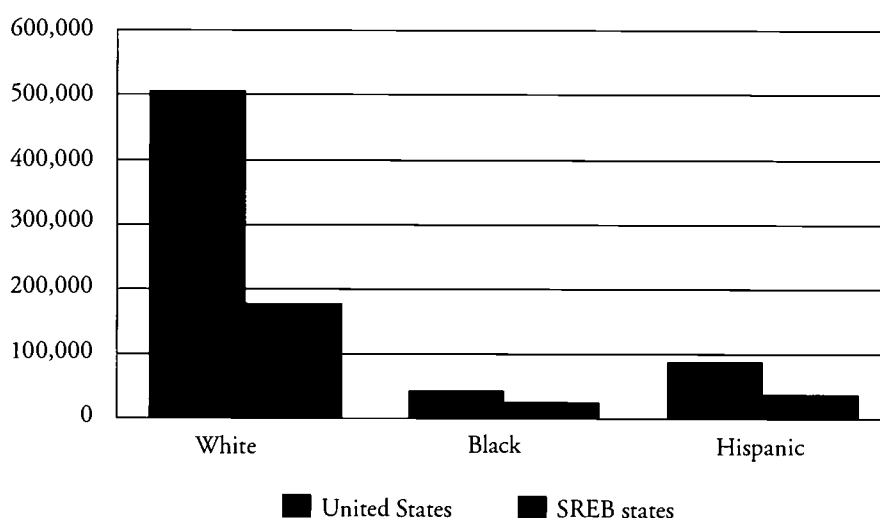


Source: The College Board

More minority students are taking AP exams in SREB states. The number of black students who took AP exams in public schools increased from 9,004 in 1993 to 23,691 in 2002. Black students in SREB states accounted for nearly 60 percent of the black students nationwide who took AP exams. There was an even more dramatic increase in the number of Hispanic students who took AP exams in SREB states — from 7,058 in 1993 to 34,676 in 2002. Hispanic students in SREB states accounted for a larger percentage of the nation's Hispanic students who took AP exams in 2002 (39 percent) than in 1993 (29 percent). (See Table 5 and Figure 3.)

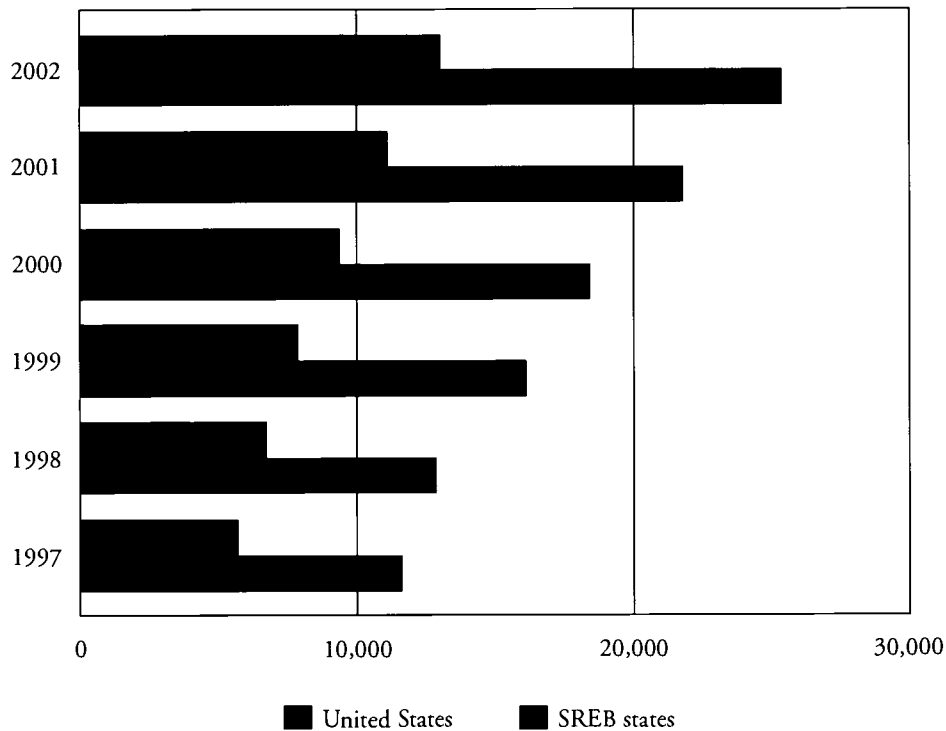
The number of students taking International Baccalaureate courses in public and private schools more than doubled both in SREB states and in the nation between 1997 and 2002. Florida led the nation in program participants (4,769) in 2002. Since 1997, students in SREB states consistently have accounted for about half of the IB program participants in the nation. (See Table 6 and Figure 4.)

Figure 3
Advanced Placement Students
in Public Schools, 2002



Source: The College Board

Figure 4
International Baccalaureate Students in
Public and Private Schools



Source: International Baccalaureate Organization

The numbers of IB exams given in public and private schools also have more than doubled since 1997. More than half of all IB exams are taken in SREB states, where the number increased from 15,638 in 1997 to 36,919 in 2002. Nationwide, the number of exams increased from 30,569 to 67,697. (See Table 7.)

Schools in SREB states ranked high in Newsweek's 2003 index of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams taken in public high schools nationwide. The Challenge Index assigns each public high school a rank based on a ratio derived by counting the number of AP and IB tests taken by all students in a given year and dividing it by the number of graduating seniors. Only high schools that average at least one exam per graduating senior are listed. Schools that select more than half of their students for admission based on exams or other academic criteria, however, are not eligible for the index. This year 739 public schools made the list.

Seven of the nation's top 10 schools in the 2003 index are in SREB states: (2) Stanton College Prep, Jacksonville, Florida; (3) Paxon, Jacksonville, Florida; (4) Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham; (6) George Mason, Falls Church, Virginia; (7) Myers Park, Charlotte, North Carolina; (8) Science Academy of South Texas, Mercedes; and (9) H-B Woodlawn, Arlington, Virginia. Schools in SREB states accounted for 40 percent of the top 100 high schools and 36 percent of all schools listed. (See Table 8.)

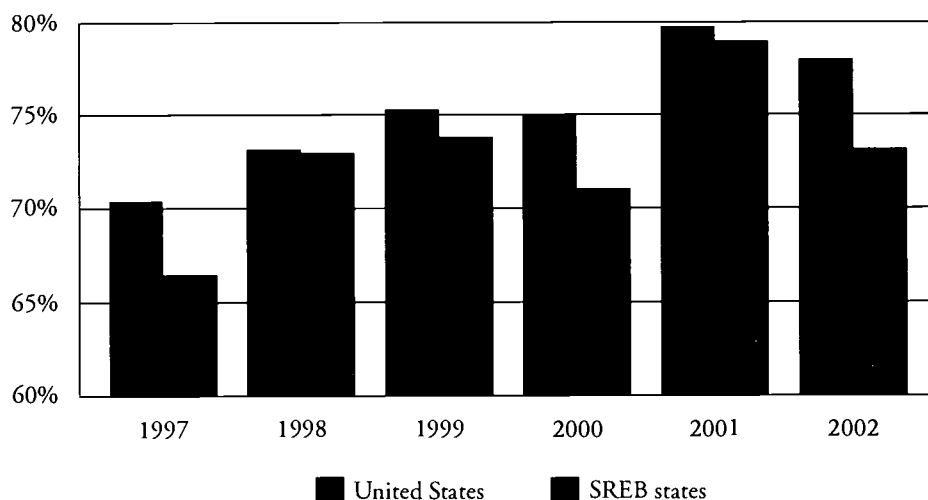
Are students passing the exams?

As more students take AP courses, the passing rates on the end-of-course exams typically decrease. In 2002, 54 percent of students in SREB states who took AP exams earned scores of 3 or higher — down from 60 percent of test-takers in 1992. Because colleges generally award credit for scores of 3 or higher, that score is considered to be “passing.” Maryland’s passing rate of 71 percent was the highest in the region and exceeded the national average by 10 percentage points. Delaware, Tennessee and Virginia also surpassed the national average. (See Table 9.) Even AP students who do not earn college credit by scoring 3 or higher on the exams are better-prepared for college courses than are students who did not take AP courses, according to The College Board.

The number of minority students in public schools who pass AP exams has increased in proportion with the increase in the total number of public school students who pass them. The numbers of black students in SREB states who passed AP exams more than tripled between 1993 and 2002 — from 3,492 to 10,623. Hispanic students made an even more dramatic gain — from 5,926 in 1993 to 26,023 in 2002. National patterns are similar. **More than one-third of all white students, more than one-third of all Hispanic students and more than half of all black students who passed AP exams nationwide lived in SREB states in 2002.** (See Table 10.)

The number of diplomas awarded to International Baccalaureate students has increased steadily. In 1997, diplomas were awarded to 67 percent of IB students in SREB states. By 2002 that figure had increased to 73 percent. The national averages were slightly higher: 71 percent in 1992 and 78 percent in 2002. Five SREB states (Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Texas and Virginia) were at or above the national average in 2002. (See Table 11 and Figure 5.)

Figure 5
Percent of International Baccalaureate Students
Who Earned IB Diplomas, Public and Private Schools



Source: International Baccalaureate Organization

State actions

States and schools influence students' participation — and, ultimately, success — in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate. SREB states have provided funds for equipment, materials and teachers' professional development. They also have established incentives for schools and teachers to participate in the programs and have subsidized the fees that students must pay to take the exams. Dramatic increases in student participation are proof of the success of these policies.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Education sets aside funds for Advanced Placement students who demonstrate financial need. Thirteen SREB states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas) apply for these funds and offer lower-priced AP exams for low-income students. Arkansas and Florida offer reduced fees for all students who take AP exams. Georgia and South Carolina fully subsidize AP exams for all students.

The success of the AP Program and of participating students also depends on the availability of professional development for AP teachers. AP offers various forms of professional development, including summer workshops and support for school-based teams of AP teachers. Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia fund professional development for AP teachers.

SREB has formed a partnership with three SREB states — Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee — designed to increase students' access to AP courses. The three-year, federally funded project, called AP Nexus, provides online AP courses for low-income students in public high schools that do not offer AP courses. Program coordinators in the three participating states actively identify and recruit qualified students in public schools and provide them with ongoing support as they take the courses. Teachers are trained to teach the online AP courses, thus expanding the pool of qualified AP teachers and strengthening the high school curricula in the participating states.

International Baccalaureate programs are created on a school-by-school basis, and every SREB state except Delaware and Tennessee has at least one IB school. As with AP, states may apply for funds that the U.S. Department of Education allocates for IB students in financial need, but only Texas applies for these funds. Students who demonstrate financial need may be reimbursed for the fees they pay to take IB tests. Florida offers schools incentives to participate in the IB program and, as a result, is second to California in the number of IB schools. Florida schools receive extra state funding for each student who earns a passing score of 4 or above on an IB end-of-course test. All IB diploma recipients in Florida are eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, which can be used at any state university.

History of Programs

The AP Program offers high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses. Scores range from a low of 1 to a high of 5. Colleges and universities generally award credit to any student who earns a score of at least 3 on an end-of-course test; some colleges, however, require higher scores.

AP began in 1952 with a pilot program in seven schools. It initially offered courses in 11 subjects. The program aimed to improve education by getting secondary and postsecondary schools to eliminate repetitious work. It also enabled highly motivated students to take advanced classes and move more quickly through their education.

By 1955, AP had expanded to 27 schools and the Educational Testing Service had instituted exams to determine college credit. The College Board was asked to take over administration of the program. The College Board expanded the program and began offering professional development to AP teachers. AP is now an extensive cooperative venture among secondary schools and colleges and universities. More than 10,000 U.S. high schools (62 percent) offer AP courses. There are 35 courses available in 19 subjects.

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a nonprofit educational foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland. The IBO, which was founded in 1968, grew from efforts by international schools to establish a common curriculum and a credential for entrance to universities. More than 46,000 students in more than 800 schools worldwide participate in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. More than 25,000 U.S. students between the ages of 16 and 19 in more than 300 high schools participate in the IB program — constituting more than half of IB students worldwide. IB schools receive assistance from the IBO in the following areas: curriculum and assessment development; teacher training and information seminars; and electronic networking.

The comprehensive, two-year IB curriculum includes six academic areas: language; second language; individuals and societies; experimental sciences; mathematics and computer science; and the arts. Students also are required to complete three additional elements:

- The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is an interdisciplinary course intended to get students to reflect critically on what they learn inside and outside of the classroom.
- The Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) program, a community service component, encourages students to share their talents with others.
- The student must write an extended essay of 4,000 words on a topic of interest to him or her.

Each subject exam is graded on a scale of 1 to 7. In order to receive a diploma, a student must earn at least 24 total points — scores of at least 4 on the six subject tests. Students also must complete the TOK course, CAS activities and the extended essay satisfactorily. Students who do not earn IB diplomas still may receive college credit for individual IB courses. Colleges and universities determine whether to award credit.

Table 1
Percent of Public Schools
Offering the Advanced Placement Program¹

| | 1996 | 1998 | 2000 | 2002 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| United States | 58% | 59% | 60% | 65% |
| SREB states ² | 73 | 67 | 67 | 74 |
| Alabama | 54 | 44 | 38 | 36 |
| Arkansas | 28 | 32 | 32 | 36 |
| Delaware | 88 | 86 | 100 | 108 |
| Florida | 82 | 83 | 82 | 86 |
| Georgia | 82 | 79 | 80 | 82 |
| Kentucky | 67 | 64 | 68 | 75 |
| Louisiana | 21 | 20 | 20 | 24 |
| Maryland | 92 | 94 | 93 | 94 |
| Mississippi | 39 | 37 | 38 | 34 |
| North Carolina | 88 | 87 | 87 | 93 |
| Oklahoma | 16 | 23 | 37 | 56 |
| South Carolina | 96 | 92 | 92 | 94 |
| Tennessee | 54 | 52 | 50 | 61 |
| Texas | 54 | 61 | 66 | 71 |
| Virginia | 87 | 82 | 86 | 87 |
| West Virginia | 78 | 70 | 64 | 73 |

¹ The College Board calculates the percentages by dividing the actual numbers of participating schools by estimated numbers of public high schools, based on surveys by Quality Education Data Inc. Inaccuracies in the estimates result in anomalies, such as the percentage reported in Delaware in 2002. Quality Education Data Inc. reports that Delaware has 24 high schools, but The College Board reports 26 schools participating in AP.

² The SREB regional rates are the means of the rates of the two median SREB states.

Sources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Examination Statistics, various years.

Table 2
Public and Private Schools Offering the
International Baccalaureate Program

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| United States | 176 | 204 | 233 | 255 | 292 | 327 |
| SREB states | 80 | 93 | 106 | 122 | 138 | 154 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 45.5% | 45.6% | 45.5% | 47.8% | 47.3% | 47.1% |
| Alabama | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Arkansas | NA | NA | NA | 0 | NA | 1 |
| Delaware | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Florida | 24 | 28 | 32 | 35 | 36 | 38 |
| Georgia | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 15 |
| Kentucky | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Louisiana | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1 |
| Maryland | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Mississippi | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| North Carolina | 7 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 17 |
| Oklahoma | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| South Carolina | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 13 |
| Tennessee | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Texas | 13 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 16 | 18 |
| Virginia | 13 | 15 | 17 | 22 | 25 | 28 |
| West Virginia | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1 | 1 |

"NA" indicates not applicable. No school in the state participated in the IB program in that year.

Sources: International Baccalaureate Organization, North American Statistical Summary, 1997-2002.

Table 3
Advanced Placement Students
in Public Schools¹

| | 1992 | 1994 | 1996 | 1998 | 2000 | 2002 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| United States | 307,073 | 368,780 | 432,751 | 509,895 | 617,547 | 769,452 |
| SREB states | 98,860 | 126,007 | 145,265 | 171,457 | 211,483 | 273,335 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 32.2% | 34.2% | 33.6% | 33.6% | 34.2% | 35.5% |
| Alabama | 4,662 | 5,182 | 5,705 | 4,972 | 4,230 | 4,753 |
| Arkansas | 1,369 | 1,624 | 1,794 | 2,465 | 3,360 | 4,137 |
| Delaware | 702 | 734 | 815 | 975 | 1,173 | 1,533 |
| Florida | 22,759 | 25,870 | 28,491 | 31,758 | 37,971 | 51,222 |
| Georgia | 6,904 | 13,318 | 10,383 | 13,362 | 16,269 | 21,704 |
| Kentucky | 3,377 | 3,837 | 4,404 | 4,818 | 5,964 | 7,317 |
| Louisiana | 1,425 | 1,506 | 1,611 | 1,622 | 1,706 | 1,961 |
| Maryland | 6,755 | 8,047 | 10,235 | 12,372 | 15,254 | 20,091 |
| Mississippi | 1,496 | 1,659 | 1,928 | 1,878 | 2,005 | 2,224 |
| North Carolina | 8,640 | 12,663 | 14,339 | 15,677 | 19,249 | 24,716 |
| Oklahoma | 1,875 | 2,295 | 2,563 | 3,893 | 5,690 | 8,083 |
| South Carolina | 7,000 | 8,140 | 9,036 | 9,269 | 9,130 | 10,080 |
| Tennessee | 4,150 | 4,883 | 5,450 | 6,088 | 6,711 | 7,910 |
| Texas | 13,343 | 18,540 | 28,351 | 40,104 | 55,176 | 74,148 |
| Virginia | 12,629 | 15,677 | 17,964 | 20,145 | 25,392 | 30,881 |
| West Virginia | 1,774 | 2,032 | 2,196 | 2,059 | 2,203 | 2,575 |

¹ Refers to students who take at least one AP exam.

Sources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Examination Statistics, various years.

Table 4
Advanced Placement Exams Per 1,000
11th- and 12th-graders, Public and Private Schools

| | 1996 | 1998 | 2000 | 2002 |
|--|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| United States | 130 | 150 | 178 | 212 |
| SREB states | 116 | 132 | 158 | 193 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 89.2 % | 88.0 % | 88.8% | 91.0 % |
| Alabama | 88 | 84 | 79 | 92 |
| Arkansas | 42 | 62 | 84 | 108 |
| Delaware | 155 | 176 | 187 | 261 |
| Florida | 197 | 215 | 241 | 295 |
| Georgia | 110 | 144 | 186 | 218 |
| Kentucky | 86 | 98 | 122 | 146 |
| Louisiana | 38 | 42 | 48 | 50 |
| Maryland | 188 | 216 | 256 | 322 |
| Mississippi | 54 | 58 | 58 | 65 |
| North Carolina | 167 | 190 | 235 | 303 |
| Oklahoma | 49 | 71 | 107 | 153 |
| South Carolina | 178 | 191 | 190 | 221 |
| Tennessee | 94 | 104 | 126 | 134 |
| Texas | 115 | 149 | 210 | 262 |
| Virginia | 227 | 249 | 316 | 356 |
| West Virginia | 68 | 66 | 81 | 98 |

Sources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Examination Statistics, various years.

Table 5
Advanced Placement Students¹
in Public Schools by Race/Ethnicity

| | 1993 | | | 1996 | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|
| | White | Black | Hispanic ² | White | Black | Hispanic ² |
| United States | 229,382 | 15,236 | 24,287 | 284,076 | 19,644 | 35,742 |
| SREB states | 79,995 | 9,004 | 7,058 | 99,443 | 11,265 | 11,832 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 34.9% | 59.1% | 29.1% | 35.0% | 57.3% | 33.1% |
| Alabama | 3,727 | 667 | 29 | 4,310 | 730 | 45 |
| Arkansas | 1,223 | 55 | 13 | 1,456 | 82 | 18 |
| Delaware | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Florida | 15,199 | 2,014 | 3,705 | 17,007 | 2,335 | 4,885 |
| Georgia | 7,953 | 1,606 | 163 | 7,691 | 1,095 | 138 |
| Kentucky | 3,347 | 59 | 18 | 3,902 | 83 | 29 |
| Louisiana | 1,021 | 169 | 28 | 1,054 | 230 | 45 |
| Maryland | 4,999 | 487 | 177 | 6,755 | 862 | 277 |
| Mississippi | 1,234 | 121 | 5 | 1,484 | 279 | 7 |
| North Carolina | 8,588 | 813 | 101 | 11,512 | 1,162 | 154 |
| Oklahoma | 1,590 | 115 | 50 | 1,831 | 138 | 79 |
| South Carolina | 5,645 | 1,162 | 65 | 6,677 | 1,418 | 83 |
| Tennessee | 3,496 | 435 | 32 | 4,216 | 513 | 50 |
| Texas | 10,033 | 468 | 2,283 | 16,652 | 1,153 | 5,422 |
| Virginia | 10,235 | 805 | 383 | 12,939 | 1,156 | 581 |
| West Virginia | 1,705 | 28 | 6 | 1,957 | 29 | 19 |

“—” indicates data not available.

¹ Refers to students who take at least one AP exam.

² The College Board classification includes the following: Latino: Chicano/Mexican; Latino: Puerto Rican; and Latino: other.

Sources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Examination Statistics, various years.

Table 5
Advanced Placement Students¹
in Public Schools by Race/Ethnicity (*continued*)

| | 1999 | | | 2002 | | |
|--|---------|--------|-----------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|
| | White | Black | Hispanic ² | White | Black | Hispanic ² |
| United States | 365,799 | 27,263 | 54,748 | 503,693 | 40,663 | 87,982 |
| SREB states | 127,727 | 15,850 | 20,241 | 179,219 | 23,691 | 34,676 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 34.9% | 58.1% | 37.0% | 35.6% | 58.3% | 39.4% |
| Alabama | 3,607 | 582 | 49 | 3,639 | 630 | 69 |
| Arkansas | 2,461 | 161 | 44 | 3,401 | 277 | 65 |
| Delaware | 796 | 53 | 19 | 1,141 | 106 | 36 |
| Florida | 20,154 | 2,593 | 6,258 | 30,509 | 4,467 | 9,989 |
| Georgia | 10,106 | 2,493 | 285 | 14,571 | 3,695 | 534 |
| Kentucky | 4,762 | 117 | 43 | 6,551 | 198 | 68 |
| Louisiana | 1,102 | 250 | 41 | 1,311 | 316 | 60 |
| Maryland | 8,997 | 1,274 | 424 | 13,457 | 2,019 | 787 |
| Mississippi | 1,454 | 512 | 17 | 1,597 | 448 | 27 |
| North Carolina | 14,169 | 1,524 | 247 | 19,488 | 2,503 | 508 |
| Oklahoma | 3,584 | 288 | 146 | 6,031 | 354 | 313 |
| South Carolina | 6,931 | 1,419 | 124 | 7,805 | 1,338 | 155 |
| Tennessee | 5,006 | 689 | 96 | 6,101 | 957 | 129 |
| Texas | 25,702 | 2,095 | 11,554 | 39,462 | 3,910 | 20,662 |
| Virginia | 17,098 | 1,766 | 880 | 21,796 | 2,439 | 1,259 |
| West Virginia | 1,798 | 34 | 14 | 2,359 | 34 | 15 |

Table 6
International Baccalaureate Students
in Public and Private Schools

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| United States | 11,728 | 13,577 | 16,080 | 18,551 | 21,612 | 25,024 |
| SREB states | 5,675 | 6,529 | 7,990 | 9,462 | 11,127 | 13,075 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 48.4% | 48.1% | 49.7% | 51.0% | 51.5% | 52.2% |
| Alabama | 72 | 140 | 178 | 208 | 202 | 206 |
| Arkansas | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 35 |
| Delaware | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Florida | 2,634 | 2,939 | 3,433 | 3,876 | 4,441 | 4,769 |
| Georgia | 139 | 179 | 251 | 396 | 519 | 669 |
| Kentucky | 128 | 94 | 112 | 175 | 214 | 200 |
| Louisiana | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 9 |
| Maryland | 564 | 611 | 669 | 651 | 744 | 799 |
| Mississippi | 86 | 67 | 65 | 52 | 53 | 62 |
| North Carolina | 420 | 519 | 636 | 749 | 801 | 924 |
| Oklahoma | 71 | 127 | 146 | 134 | 160 | 144 |
| South Carolina | 93 | 212 | 303 | 290 | 397 | 570 |
| Tennessee | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Texas | 776 | 826 | 816 | 921 | 960 | 1,305 |
| Virginia | 692 | 815 | 1,381 | 2,010 | 2,610 | 3,356 |
| West Virginia | NA | NA | NA | NA | 26 | 27 |

“NA” indicates not applicable. No school in the state participated in the IB program in that year.

Sources: International Baccalaureate Organization, North American Statistical Summary, 1997-2002.

Table 7
International Baccalaureate Exams
Given in Public and Private Schools

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| United States | 30,569 | 36,108 | 43,017 | 50,745 | 57,695 | 67,697 |
| SREB states | 15,638 | 18,388 | 22,840 | 27,031 | 30,965 | 36,919 |
| SREB states as a percentage of nation | 51.2% | 50.9% | 53.1% | 53.3% | 53.7% | 54.5% |
| Alabama | 207 | 356 | 568 | 580 | 650 | 601 |
| Arkansas | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 36 |
| Delaware | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Florida | 8,157 | 8,933 | 10,999 | 12,456 | 13,893 | 15,583 |
| Georgia | 482 | 706 | 833 | 1,272 | 1,510 | 2,150 |
| Kentucky | 310 | 238 | 260 | 350 | 522 | 456 |
| Louisiana | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 12 |
| Maryland | 1,406 | 1,641 | 1,781 | 1,721 | 1,989 | 2,109 |
| Mississippi | 166 | 195 | 182 | 171 | 127 | 167 |
| North Carolina | 1,048 | 1,397 | 1,828 | 2,154 | 2,255 | 2,581 |
| Oklahoma | 143 | 321 | 432 | 396 | 480 | 473 |
| South Carolina | 241 | 498 | 809 | 750 | 1,012 | 1,373 |
| Tennessee | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Texas | 1,873 | 2,127 | 2,119 | 2,456 | 2,424 | 3,228 |
| Virginia | 1,605 | 1,976 | 3,029 | 4,725 | 6,010 | 8,047 |
| West Virginia | NA | NA | NA | NA | 93 | 103 |

“NA” indicates not applicable. No school in the state participated in the IB program in that year.

Sources: International Baccalaureate Organization, North American Statistical Summary, 1997-2002.

Table 8
SREB-State High Schools Listed in
Newsweek's 2003 Challenge Index¹:

| | Top 100 | 101 to 200 | 201 to 300 | 301 to 400 | 400 to 739 | Total Schools in Index |
|--|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Alabama | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Arkansas | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Delaware | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Florida | 10 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 19 | 46 |
| Georgia | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 18 |
| Kentucky | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Louisiana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maryland | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 19 | 34 |
| Mississippi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Carolina | 6 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 39 |
| Oklahoma | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| South Carolina | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| Tennessee | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Texas | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 42 |
| Virginia | 11 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 61 |
| West Virginia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 40 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 113 | 268 |
| Schools in SREB states as a percentage of all schools in index | 40.0% | 38.0% | 38.0% | 39.0% | 33.3% | 36.3% |

¹ The Challenge Index by Newsweek magazine assigns each public high school a rank based on a ratio derived by counting the number of AP and IB tests taken by all students in a given year and dividing it by the number of graduating seniors. Only schools that average at least one exam per graduating senior are listed. This year 739 schools made the list. Schools that select more than half their students for admission, based on exams or other academic criteria are not eligible for the index.

Note: Of the 739 schools listed in the 2003 index, 109 are International Baccalaureate schools, and 65 of those are in SREB states.

Sources: "The 100 Best High Schools in America," Newsweek, June 2, 2003, and www.newsweek.msnbc.com.

Table 9
Percent of Advanced Placement Exams
With Scores of 3 or Higher Taken by Public School Students

| | 1992 | 1994 | 1996 | 1998 | 2000 | 2002 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| United States | 64% | 65% | 62% | 63% | 62% | 61% |
| SREB states ¹ | 60 | 56 | 58 | 56 | 55 | 54 |
| Alabama | 49 | 52 | 50 | 54 | 57 | 57 |
| Arkansas | 63 | 62 | 59 | 52 | 52 | 50 |
| Delaware | — | — | 61 | 59 | 56 | 62 |
| Florida | 53 | 54 | 52 | 53 | 56 | 54 |
| Georgia | 63 | 49 | 62 | 56 | 56 | 56 |
| Kentucky | 46 | 49 | 48 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| Louisiana | 60 | 62 | 57 | 61 | 61 | 56 |
| Maryland | 72 | 74 | 69 | 71 | 71 | 71 |
| Mississippi | 49 | 45 | 45 | 41 | 41 | 42 |
| North Carolina | 61 | 56 | 54 | 58 | 55 | 56 |
| Oklahoma | 59 | 66 | 63 | 58 | 58 | 59 |
| South Carolina | 55 | 55 | 51 | 54 | 55 | 51 |
| Tennessee | 62 | 64 | 61 | 61 | 62 | 63 |
| Texas | 69 | 69 | 61 | 56 | 53 | 52 |
| Virginia | 67 | 65 | 63 | 65 | 62 | 62 |
| West Virginia | 45 | 50 | 51 | 56 | 54 | 48 |

“—” indicates data not available.

¹ The SREB regional rates are the means of the rates of the two median SREB states.

Sources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Examination Statistics, various years.

Table 10
Advanced Placement Exams With Scores of 3 or Higher
Taken by Public School Students by Race/Ethnicity

| | 1993 | | | 1996 | | |
|---|---------|-------|-----------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| | White | Black | Hispanic ¹ | White | Black | Hispanic ¹ |
| United States | 215,184 | 6,527 | 20,276 | 275,480 | 8,696 | 29,689 |
| SREB states | 69,806 | 3,492 | 5,926 | 91,829 | 4,712 | 9,568 |
| SREB states as a percentage of the nation | 32.4% | 53.5% | 29.2% | 33.3% | 54.2% | 32.2% |
| Alabama | 2,663 | 149 | 28 | 3,279 | 191 | 35 |
| Arkansas | 905 | 24 | 6 | 1,181 | 31 | 15 |
| Delaware | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Florida | 12,803 | 821 | 3,132 | 15,263 | 934 | 4,268 |
| Georgia | 5,825 | 479 | 134 | 7,102 | 491 | 144 |
| Kentucky | 2,125 | 24 | 18 | 2,695 | 44 | 33 |
| Louisiana | 768 | 76 | 32 | 825 | 108 | 38 |
| Maryland | 5,410 | 263 | 182 | 7,345 | 421 | 320 |
| Mississippi | 747 | 33 | 3 | 983 | 74 | 4 |
| North Carolina | 7,161 | 309 | 85 | 9,960 | 446 | 137 |
| Oklahoma | 1,289 | 35 | 37 | 1,699 | 59 | 55 |
| South Carolina | 4,808 | 406 | 54 | 5,702 | 483 | 80 |
| Tennessee | 3,260 | 189 | 35 | 3,904 | 223 | 44 |
| Texas | 10,476 | 264 | 1,782 | 17,217 | 518 | 3,784 |
| Virginia | 10,507 | 409 | 392 | 13,299 | 671 | 600 |
| West Virginia | 1,059 | 11 | 6 | 1,375 | 18 | 11 |

“—” indicates data not available.

¹ The College Board classification includes the following: Latino: Chicano/Mexican; Latino: Puerto Rican; and Latino: other.

Sources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Examination Statistics, various years.

Table 10
Advanced Placement Exams With Scores of 3 or Higher
Taken by Public School Students by Race/Ethnicity *(continued)*

| | 1999 | | | 2002 | | |
|--|---------|--------|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| | White | Black | Hispanic | White | Black | Hispanic |
| United States | 376,632 | 12,656 | 44,938 | 547,139 | 18,737 | 68,628 |
| SREB states | 125,605 | 7,055 | 15,633 | 186,014 | 10,623 | 26,023 |
| SREB states as a percentage of the nation | 33.3% | 55.7% | 34.8% | 34.0% | 56.7% | 37.9% |
| Alabama | 2,997 | 172 | 70 | 3,404 | 194 | 64 |
| Arkansas | 2,008 | 51 | 51 | 2,816 | 81 | 60 |
| Delaware | 781 | 35 | 22 | 1,214 | 61 | 25 |
| Florida | 20,127 | 1,320 | 5,681 | 30,322 | 2,216 | 9,151 |
| Georgia | 9,493 | 849 | 242 | 14,710 | 1,339 | 498 |
| Kentucky | 3,199 | 53 | 31 | 4,757 | 88 | 64 |
| Louisiana | 982 | 133 | 54 | 1,093 | 112 | 52 |
| Maryland | 10,517 | 729 | 493 | 17,977 | 1,150 | 874 |
| Mississippi | 860 | 83 | 22 | 1,045 | 101 | 22 |
| North Carolina | 13,363 | 640 | 251 | 20,879 | 1,057 | 494 |
| Oklahoma | 3,128 | 118 | 97 | 8,085 | 628 | 164 |
| South Carolina | 6,672 | 506 | 114 | 5,104 | 154 | 224 |
| Tennessee | 4,812 | 350 | 91 | 6,317 | 377 | 137 |
| Texas | 26,244 | 959 | 7,478 | 41,144 | 1,685 | 12,947 |
| Virginia | 18,970 | 1,037 | 909 | 25,521 | 1,367 | 1,229 |
| West Virginia | 1,452 | 20 | 27 | 1,626 | 13 | 18 |

Table 11
Percent of International Baccalaureate Students
Who Earned IB Diplomas, Public and Private Schools

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| United States | 70.6% | 73.3% | 75.3% | 75.0% | 79.7% | 77.9% |
| SREB states ¹ | 66.6 | 73.2 | 73.9 | 71.6 | 78.8 | 73.4 |
| Alabama | 66.6 | 77.1 | 73.9 | 81.6 | 83.8 | 83.5 |
| Arkansas | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Delaware | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Florida | 66.5 | 66.4 | 75.5 | 74.5 | 78.8 | 79.1 |
| Georgia | 61.8 | 58.0 | 62.9 | 59.2 | 70.4 | 66.1 |
| Kentucky | 78.6 | 90.5 | 76.2 | 59.1 | 76.8 | 81.8 |
| Louisiana | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Maryland | 76.9 | 81.3 | 77.8 | 80.3 | 81.3 | 68.1 |
| Mississippi | 10.0 | 18.8 | 11.1 | NA | 47.4 | 11.5 |
| North Carolina | 68.6 | 74.7 | 72.5 | 68.7 | 79.7 | 74.6 |
| Oklahoma | 83.3 | 70.7 | 68.9 | 54.1 | 71.2 | 57.9 |
| South Carolina | 72.7 | 62.2 | 61.7 | 60.4 | 75.4 | 72.2 |
| Tennessee | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Texas | 62.8 | 73.2 | 78.4 | 78.8 | 84.3 | 78.0 |
| Virginia | 62.8 | 77.9 | 77.4 | 80.7 | 85.5 | 86.1 |
| West Virginia | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 46.7 |

“NA” indicates not applicable. No school in the state participated in the IB program in that year or no school had participated long enough to have students eligible for IB diplomas.

¹ The SREB regional rates are the means of the rates of the two median SREB states.

Sources: International Baccalaureate Organization, North American Statistical Summary, 1997-2002.

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Goals for Education

1. All children are ready for the first grade.
2. Achievement in the early grades for all groups of students exceeds national averages and performance gaps are closed.
3. Achievement in the middle grades for all groups of students exceeds national averages and performance gaps are closed.
4. All young adults have a high school diploma — or, if not, pass the GED tests.
5. All recent high school graduates have solid academic preparation and are ready for postsecondary education and a career.
6. Adults who are not high school graduates participate in literacy and job-skills training and further education.
7. The percentage of adults who earn postsecondary degrees or technical certificates exceeds national averages.
8. Every school has higher student performance and meets state academic standards for all students each year.
9. Every school has leadership that results in improved student performance — and leadership begins with an effective school principal.
10. Every student is taught by qualified teachers.
11. The quality of colleges and universities is regularly assessed and funding is targeted to quality, efficiency and state needs.
12. The state places a high priority on an education *system* of schools, colleges and universities that is accountable.

The Southern Regional Education Board established these new goals in 2002. They are built on the groundbreaking education goals SREB adopted in 1988 and on a decade-long effort to promote actions and measure progress. The new goals raise further the sights of the 16 SREB states and challenge them to lead the nation.



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